

Testimony before the Appropriations Committee

23 February, 2017

Good morning, Senator Fomica, Senator Osten, Representative Walker and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Kyle Kushlick and I am a resident of Hartford, CT. I am here to speak on the governor's proposal about the budget for Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

I currently receive DMHAS funded services which have allowed me to stabilize my mental health status. I have been a part of the Chrysalis Center for over five years, specifically the REC (Recovery and Empowerment Center). I am also now receiving case management services from CSP (Community Support Program).

Since being a part of Chrysalis Center, I have been able to get out of the house more often, increase my social skills and have made many new friends. I feel as if the services provided to me have been very productive in my life. I have become increasingly more interactive within the community as well as more social with my peers. The case management services that I am now receiving are extremely helpful in my day to day recovery. The workers are very polite to me and treat me with a high amount of respect.

If these services were cut, my life would not be as enlightened or nearly as active. I would stay at home more often and not be productive as I am today. I feel as if my day to day recovery would be hindered and I would not be making the progress that I am now.

I urge you to support these important services, like the ones that I am receiving from Chrysalis, for people with mental health and/ or substance use disorders.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kyle Kushlick". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "K" and a distinct "R" at the end.

Kyle Kushlick

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